including those from DoS while finalizing their recommendations which are awaited.

Issue of statements through post offices to senior citizens

2898. SHRIHARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the senior citizens who have opened their accounts under Senior Citizen Saving Schemes have to wait for hours together in a long queue for their statements making their life miserable and tiresome on due dates;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to issue such statements through the various post offices desired by them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) There is no provision of issue of statements under Senior Citizen Savings Schemes— 2005 in the Post Offices. However, the depositor has the option to get the quarterly interest credited to his/her savings account in the same post office in which case entries are required to be done in the passbook only once in a year.

Conversion of postal department into commercial department

†2899. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish the postal department commercially;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the role of Government officials in such move and Government's view in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so that postal department can cash maximum income alongwith fulfilling the social responsibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not considering to establish postal department (xxnmercially.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The Department of Posts continues to fulfil its social responsibilities. However, some products and services are provided at cost plus basis and new value added products and services are introduced to cater to higher and specialized customer expectations on a more commercial basis. Some of the products/services introduced are Speed Post, Business Post, Bill Mail Service, Direct Post, Speed Post Passport Service, e-Post, e-Payment and e-Bill Post, Express Parcel Post, Logistics Post, Retail Post, Media Post, Instant Money Order Service and Postal Life Insurance. The Department also provides the front end for providing services/products tied up with other organisations such as payments to beneficiaries under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, sale of passport forms and university application forms, Western Union Money Transfer, sale of Oriental Insurance Company non-life insurance products, receipt of applications under the Right to Information Act etc.

Release of telephone connections in Muzaffarnagar

†2900. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants in waiting list for telephone connections in the district Muzaffarnagar of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the time it take for giving telephone connections after getting approval; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for giving the connections expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total number of applicants in waiting list in Muzaffarnagar district as on 31.07.2006 is 3515.

(b) It takes normally seven days for giving telephone connection after getting approval i.e. after issuing the advice note, if it is technically feasible.

(c) For exhausting waiting list in Muzaffarnagar district, the following steps are being taken to provide telephone connections expeditiously:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.